

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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REPORT

COUNTRY: USSR
SUBJECT: Health and Medical Conditions in Lomonosov
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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HOUSING

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1. [redacted] Lomonosov, a small city of approximately 15 square kilometers with a population of 20,000 located 40 kilometers west of Leningrad. This city was formerly called Oranienbaum and the railroad station still bears the latter name.
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2. Although the population of the city in 1953 was approximately 20,000, only 10,000 of these were permanent residents. The remainder were troops assigned to the city for training. [redacted]
[redacted] they had medical treatment supplied within their organizations, for they did not use the civilian facilities of the city. [redacted] they had a military hospital, [redacted]
[redacted] they received hospital care at a military hospital located somewhere in Leningrad.
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3. The city was connected by electric railroad with Leningrad to the East, and by steam engine line with Narva to the West. There was no regular water traffic from the city, except for ferry service to Kronstadt. A steamer could be taken from Peterhof, 10 kilometers to the East, to Leningrad. No air transport was available in the city. The city center consisted primarily of stone-type dwellings. This type of building was erected by German settlers who had lived in the area prior to the war but who had been sent to the East by the Soviets. No trace of their living there remained other than the German language signs on shops, e.g., the city pharmacy, which resembled a German Apotheke, bore many German-language evidences of its former ownership.

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4. [redacted] Menshikov Castle [redacted] is on a hill overlooking the city from the south. The surrounding area originally [redacted] belonged to Prince Menshikov, who built his castle there at the same time that Peter-the-First built one at Kronstadt. The castle had been renovated [redacted] it contained the [redacted] apartments in which the Soviet and German staffs were housed. The castle building formed an open-sided square; the main wing of the building was given over to the Institute; the Soviet apartments were in one wing, the German in the other.

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5. Each German family had several rooms with a private kitchen and lavatory. The Soviet residents, who were specialists in the Institute, and their families had essentially the same quarters. Their housing conditions were princely by comparison to that available to the other Soviet families in Lomonosov. The average Soviet family was crowded into one room and usually four families were required to use the same kitchen facilities. The city's crowded living was made more difficult because of the constant pilfering and petty thievery of the Soviets.

FOOD SUPPLY

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6. Some agency within the city controlled food outlets, [redacted] More attention was paid to inspection [redacted] of food-scales in the markets than to the purity of food sold. [redacted] the stores were forced to be very meticulous when weighing out bread or meat, and [redacted] the scales used had to pass inspection by a municipal checker.

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7. The daily diet of the average Soviet citizen consisted of potatoes, bread and soup made from various meats. The Soviets had a great liking for fatty meats, which they usually made into soup. Multivitamin tablets were very popular and were widely consumed.

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8. The meat sold in the city had to bear a veterinary inspection stamp. [redacted] meat was inspected for worm infestation. [redacted] Meat in the stores and on the market was sold under very unsanitary conditions. No refrigeration was employed for any foodstuffs, even butter. However, the stores received frozen vegetables and fruits which had to be sold immediately. Fish was sold fresh on the open market. Canned fish was also sold and was excellent. Smoked fish was sold in Leningrad.

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9. Milk was sold on the open market in the city where it was checked for specific gravity only. Its quality varied from day to day, but it was never available pasteurized, except in Leningrad. This city market milk was sold by private citizens, who were allowed to keep a cow or a goat.

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WATER SUPPLY

10. This city center and the Menshikov Castle were supplied by a city water system. The water was obtained from wells and stored in a water tower. Most of the city received water from this system,

This supply was adequate for most of the year, but on several occasions during the year the pumping system broke down and remained inoperative for several days.

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11. [redacted] the water was tested for purity. It was always strongly chlorinated, [redacted]

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[redacted] A Leningrad spring-water which had a high iron-content was also on sale.

DISEASES

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12. [redacted] the annual birthrate or deathrate [redacted]

Such figures for the city might be inaccurate because only fifty per cent of the population were permanent dwellers there.

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13. The most prevalent diseases in Lomonosov [redacted] were tuberculosis and colds. The inhabitants suffered excessively from bronchial congestion, influenza, and head colds, perhaps because of the raw, moist climate in the city. The region was largely swampy and for this reason there was an unbelievable number of mosquitoes. Malaria of a mild type was frequently observed.

14. [redacted] the health authorities requested in 1950 that the inhabitants submit to vaccination against a disease which they called an "American plague". [redacted]

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[redacted] The one symptom which was described was a fever which persisted for four weeks. The plague was publicized as having been discovered in the United States by American workers.

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[redacted] it was a form of encephalitis, [redacted]
[redacted] it was described as a virus or rickettsial disease. [redacted]

MEDICAL FACILITIES

15. The city had a polyclinic and a hospital, and the Institute also had a small dispensary. The polyclinic was located in a two-story wooden building in the northern section of the city. This building had approximately 50 rooms and its staff had physicians representing all of the medical specialties. A urologist visited the polyclinic once each week from Leningrad. This polyclinic also had a dentist on duty, although his professional reputation was very bad. In general the service at the polyclinic was neither good nor bad, but because of a heavy patient load, it was always necessary to wait for long periods before receiving attention. Women physicians, for the most part, were on duty. Because of the low salary paid to physicians high level individuals were not attracted to this profession.

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16. The city hospital was located on the southeast edge of the city on a hill overlooking the city center. It was approximately 1500 meters from the polyclinic and one kilometer east of the Menshikov Castle. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
it was generally believed that medical care here was somewhat superior to that offered at the polyclinic. Its surgical staff was probably quite capable. Of 30 German specialists in Lomonosov, approximately half had their appendixes removed at this hospital with no ill effects. This latter operation was performed under local anesthesia.
17. The Institute dispensary, or "medpunkt" was located in one room of the Castle where only the simplest medical care was available. Bandaging of minor cuts and cursory physical examinations only were furnished. All serious complaints were referred to the city polyclinic, or a physician from the polyclinic was summoned to the dispensary. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] Because of the safety features of the instruments used, no safety problems existed. No special medical installations were operated in the city other than the regular services of the polyclinic and hospital. 50X1-HUM
18. A clinic in Leningrad was open to paying patients who voluntarily visited it to obtain better than average medical care. [redacted] 50X1-50X1-HUM
[redacted] this clinic [redacted] was housed in one building where all specialties were available, and where the physicians included professors among their staff. It was said that the physicians here were highly qualified and were, for the most part, of Jewish extraction. 50X1-HUM
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SOVIET DRUGS

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21. [] penicillin and streptomycin, in Soviet packaging were easily obtainable in the city []. In general, Soviet drugs were very inexpensive provided there was an adequate supply.

INSECTS

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22. No serious vermin problem existed for the city other than the numerous mosquitoes. [] DDT powder was available and was very effective in eradication of these vermin. In general, the Soviet citizens cooperated in removing these pests because of their great fear of infection.

SANITATION

23. The city had an operating sewage disposal system which serviced a large part of the dwellings. []

[] There were latrines in and around the city which [] were purified by treatment with chloride of lime. This use of chloride of lime accounted for its bulk sale in hundred pound quantities in the city stores. The city's sewage emptied into the Finnish Bay, on which Lomonosov was located. A separate sewage system serviced the Menshikov Castle, and this system emptied into a small lake just south of the Castle.

24. The city had no drainage system and after rains much of the surrounding land was under water. Only the main street was paved; the side roads were merely dirt roads. The countryside was wooded but the ground was swampy and could only be walked on for a month in the middle of the summer when it had dried up. For the remainder of the year it was mostly bog.
25. Garbage was collected at irregular intervals when the garbage bins were filled to overflow.
26. The usual practice for disposal of the dead was burial. During the procession to the grave the coffin was usually open to public view and was closed just before interment.

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